



# The Storrington Star November 2012



October has been a busy month with our Literacy Week, cross country and Fire Safety Week.

Our Literacy Week was a big success, with the students reading. Our first annual "Bring a Book, Take a Book" was a big success. Our visiting author, Ted Staunton was very informative, talking about his book writing process. As a school, the students read for a total of 28 855 minutes. That almost gave us enough reading tickets to go around the school both upstairs and downstairs. Great work Stingers!

Students are all working hard and learning lots. We have been focusing on learning goals and success criteria. The learning goals are posted in classrooms and tell the students what they are learning about in clear, child-centred language. Success criteria is written with both the students and the teacher, and is a list of what the student needs to do to show that they know what they are learning. For instance, if the learning goal is "to learn how to make a clear poster" in a primary grade, the success criteria might be "Make all your letters the same size; use dark colours; check to make sure it has the name of the event; include the date and time". This way all students will know what is expected, what they need to do and how to improve their work.

Staff have been involved in several professional development opportunities around reading in which we are working together with teachers from other area schools. We also had a PD Day on October 29, where we continued to work on improving student achievement, focusing on School Improvement planning, writing and problem solving in math and numeracy. Our focus is to help the students identify what information they need to solve a problem, and how to show how they solved it so that others can understand. We're also trying to help students realize that math is all around us, and that we all use it. A nice home connection would be if you could help your child understand how much real-life math is at home. For instance, cooking, saving allowances, changes in speed limits - these are all math applications.

On November 16, if your child is in Grades 1 to 8, they will be bringing home a Progress Report.

These reports differ from report cards in that they focus on your child's learning skills and progress in school rather than achievement. These will be a personal reflection about how your child is adjusting to the new year. Report cards will be sent home in February and June. Kindergarten parents will be invited to come for an observation or attend a conference. Please let your child's classroom teacher know if you would like to meet and conference with them.

We have amazing students here! To date we have had 182 'Acts of Awesomeness'! It's wonderful having a chance to call and share all the great things about your child.

By partnering together, we make a big difference in the children's lives! Thank you for your communication, your use of agendas to keep in touch and your calls. Your input is invaluable!

Sue Perry & Ean Pattison

### **CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

This is just a reminder that students are not to use cell phones or iPods through the day. While we realize that some students need to have cell phones for safe arrival leaving from and arriving home, students are expected to leave them in their backpacks through the day. If your child is texting you through the day, please ask them to call you instead from the school phone. If students are using these through the day, they will be taken and stored in the office until the end of the day. Unfortunately, we cannot take responsibility for any damage or loss of electronic games or equipment.

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Our next School Council meeting will be  
November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.  
Childcare is provided.  
All are welcome!

## **JINGLE BELL WALK**

On December 7th we will be taking part in the Jingle Bell Walk. To help support local families, during the last week of November and throughout December we will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items that will be distributed through our community agencies.

## **SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP!!**

Just in time for the holidays - the School Council has organized a one-day shopping extravaganza in Ottawa on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. For \$40, you get transportation from the school and unlimited shopping at Samko and Miko Toy Warehouse, Ikea and the Bayshore Mall. Invite your friends and join us on this fun-filled day.

